

# Lucky Strike

Twenty-two Army Reservists were selected from the 75th BCTD, 104th Brigade, USARC, and the 926th Engineer Brigade.

Ragland said since the unit was at a strategic level, the normal tactical model of observations to After Action Reviews (AARs) presented a unique challenge and simply "did not work as well" at this level of command. Using their combined years of experience, the team created an AAR concept using six broad themes:

Operational SOP review, battle rhythm, building the bench through crossing training, knowledge management, safety, and rehearsals.

Webster praised the team and indicated an interest in having the OC/T's return for Operation Bright Star and other CPX events.



**Command Sgt. Maj. Tuan Nguyen (left) poses with Lt. Gen. William Webster and Col. George Thompson. Thompson served as Exercise Director for the Kuwait based CPX. Both Nguyen and Thompson are members of 1st Brigade located at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas.**


Maj. Chris Malone said the experience was rewarding. "This was the first time I was able to OC an

army level staff operation." He added, "Our observations and recommendations were well received by the

ARCENT staff. Story Boarding the AAR allowed their staff to include their observations and review cause and effect situations."

Malone received positive comments from ARCENT staff members and said the client unit benefited from the exercise.

75th members included 1st Brigade, Col. George Thompson, Lt. Col. Jeff Ragland, Lt. Col. Franc Torres, Maj. Greg Olinger, Maj. Chris Malone, Command Sgt. Maj. Tuan Nguyen, Master Sgt. Ramon Valadez, Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Thomason-Polk and 2nd Brigade's Lt. Col. Bill O'Byrne.

Ragland said exercises of this scale further legitimize the mission of the 75th and demonstrate the expertise and knowledge of the organization is being recognized army-wide. 



**ARCENT Soldiers gather for the final AAR conducted at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. 1st and 2nd Brigade Soldiers travelled to Kuwait serving as CPX OC/T's from September 18-30, 2009.**

# A Passion for Action

By Sgt. Mayra Kennedy  
75th Division Public Affairs  
Photos by SSG Suzy Hoffman

Stressful days turned into relaxing nights after he found a passion for action figures and the depiction of the working Soldier.

Lt. Col. Richard Kramer, a training officer for 1st Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division, started assembling G.I. Joe action figures only three years ago as a way to express his talent and replicate Soldiers.

This G.I. Joe collection is a line of military-themed action figures, articulated and produced by the toy company Hasbro. The original 12-inch line that was established back in 1964 centered around realistic action figures. The initial product represented four of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces with the Action Soldier representing the Army.

"Most of them I buy online, but others I make myself. A lot of times, I'll make a figure for a retiree as a request from someone," said Kramer.

He explains that making these figures require a tremendous amount of creativity and concentration to capture all the details.

"I put glue to establish a base so that things can stay on, then I paint them white so I can get a color to stay," he said.

"I put whiskers on their faces. I paint them. I can also put a weapon on their hand. I add the scope on a rifle, add a magazine, and paint all details to make it look real."

As he worked on painting a wedding band on a Desert Storm action Soldier, Kramer makes sure that the gold on



**Lt. Col. Richard Kramer poses in front of a glass display showcasing his action figures at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Houston, Texas.**



**A 101st Airborne Trooper**

the ring looks as realistic as possible.

But to Kramer, this hobby requires more than a creative mind to assemble a figure which could take weeks or even months to complete.

"You have to be history knowledgeable to put these things together. You have to do a lot of reading, a lot of sourcing, but it's a hobby, something I enjoy," he said.

Kramer has on display some of his historical pieces at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Ellington Field, as part of his collection which show uniforms utilized by the Army during different wars.

Kramer has assembled dozens of these action figures to include an engineer made for a friend who worked in his building and a chaplain with his cassock and cross.

He said he received a request by the National Buffalo Soldiers National Museum in Houston, Texas to design a historically accurate figure for display.

"I've done a medic scene with the operating table, the lights, and an injured Soldier. I even added the syringes, the IV, everything I could think of," he said.





# Soldiers Overcome the Wrath of *Ike*

By Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jay Wells  
Former 1st Brigade Commander  
Photo Courtesy of 1st. Brigade

In the face of Hurricane Ike, Maj. Marcus Koepplinger and Command Sgt. Maj. Tuan Nguyen were determined to accomplish their mission.

The Houston-based Soldiers had a training session carefully planned in North Carolina with the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion of the 130th Aviation Regiment.

What was not expected was the impact of Ike. When the storm hit the coast of Texas Saturday, September 12, 2008, airports were shut down and transportation nodes became gridlocked. Koepplinger and Nguyen decided to go directly from Fort Hood, Texas to Raleigh, N.C. and begin the training.

Normally, the team that provides Military Decision Making Process training is a five Soldier team.

In this case, the five Soldiers designated were based in Houston and trapped in their safe-havens. Had Koepplinger and Nguyen not taken the initiative to set up the training, it would not have occurred. It would have been rescheduled and likely caused significant issues for the battalion, their families, and employers.

Equally significant was the fact that these two Soldiers had family in Houston. They had wind and water damage to their property, extended periods of no power, and had potable water issues. Just like all residents of Houston, these soldiers also had trouble getting fuel, and making

phone calls through a disabled network. Through it all, fellow Soldiers and their family members supported the two as needed.

Only a couple days later than Koepplinger's mission in North Carolina, another 1st Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division team under Lt. Col. Karl Rosborough had a similar mission with the 2nd Battalion, 104th General Support Aviation Battalion.

They prepared to mobilize and deploy. Rosborough was in Houston as Hurricane Ike hit the city. His wife, a critical medical specialist was on duty when Rosborough rode through the first wave at 4 a.m. Saturday, September 12th at his home.

Ike slammed so hard into his home it shook. Shingles came off the

roof leaving behind gaping holes and four to five inches of rain pounded through the gaps. Admittedly, he feared for his life.

Then, the noise and rain abated. Little did he know, with no power, that he was then in the eye of the hurricane, more was coming. Then, at 4 a.m. on Sunday, it was *deja vu*. The thundering noise and downpours returned as the counter cycle flow of the hurricane made its final pass. That house now stands but is what appears to be a total loss.

He knew he had a mission and made arrangements to accomplish his personal requirements. As Hurricane Ike proved, nothing will stop our Soldiers from accomplishing their mission.



Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jay Wells (right) presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Maj. Marcus Koepplinger (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Tuan Nguyen.

# S.T.A.R spells recruiting success

By Capt. Keli Chevalier and Maj. Mark Williford  
75th Division Public Affairs  
Photos by Maj. Mark Williford

**C**ommand Sgt. Maj. Robert Jackson Boone, Jr. has a recruiting plan that shoots for the stars and seldom lets him hit the moon.

As the CSM of 2nd Group, 1st Brigade, Boone's plan is so good, that after enlisting 25 Soldiers into both the active component and Army Reserve, he started receiving fan mail.

Two of his biggest fans are Maj. Gen Thomas Bostick, Commanding General of the United States Army Recruiting Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston, Sergeant Major of the Army. Both were quick to recognize his innovative recruiting techniques. In fact, he was recognized as the top Regional Recruiting Assistant for Region 12, a five-state area, within the Fall 2008 issue of *Warrior Citizen Magazine*.

"Recruiting is one of the most stressful jobs in the Army," said Boone. "Because we have a global war going on a lot of people have doubts about joining. Their (potential recruits) family and friends have doubts."

Despite these legitimate concerns, this former retired IBM National Account Manager consistently recruits Soldiers into the Army and Army Reserve by following a systematic approach known as STAR.

## Start at home

- Recruit people you know or your friends know
- Go to your old high school football games



Featured in the Fall 2008 edition of *Warrior Citizen Magazine*, Boone was recognized as the top Regional Recruiting Assistant for Region 12.



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Boone is all smiles as he proudly displays a congratulatory letter from Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston for recruiting 25 Soldiers, over a 12 month period, into the Active and Reserve forces.

- Visit the mall and restaurants you frequent
- Colleges and universities

## Take Notes

- Listen to the concerns of the potential recruit, their family, and friends and address each concern
- Always get contact information

## Actively engage

- 1 in every 153 people you meet may actually enlist, knowing this fact...
- Never give up
- Understand this is hard but you must keep going

## Routine

- Establish a routine of carrying contact cards
- Always dress situationally appropriate
- Always have a note pad and pen

Boone said prior service Soldiers are the best prospects.

"The biggest reason they (veterans) are getting out is because they are burned out as a result of multiple deployments", said Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Smith, 3rd Armored Corps Recruiter, Fort Hood, Texas.

Boone offers these Soldiers options as well. The Army Reserve, especially the 75th Division, is a great alternative for veterans looking to remain actively involved in the Army without the stress of multiple deployments.



# Homes for Heroes

By Capt. Keli Chevalier

1st Brigade Unit Public Affairs Representative

Photo by Maj. Mark Williford

**T**hursday, January 22, 2009, Carla Patton, event organizer and veteran supporter, hosted the Homes for our troops Second Annual Sporting Clays Tournament presented by Energy Corporation of America.

The event has raised over 200,000 dollars for the construction and adaptation of homes for severely wounded Soldiers and Marines.

This year's Homes for Our Troops exceeded last year's fund raising efforts by the start of the competition on January 23.

"Going into the tournament, we raised more than we had last year," said Patton.

The response this year has been overwhelming. Homes for our Troops raised over \$100,000. The total amount raised is still being calculated, mainly because donations are continuing to come in.

"Checks are still arriving, and people are calling and saying they saw us on TV. They don't shoot, but they still want to send money to help!" said Patton.

Local businesses and organizations volunteered everything from time and talent to food and funds to make this event something that will continue as long as there is a need. People like the Halliburton Cook Team brought over 400 lbs. of prime rib for the bar-beque opening night. Sanford Siegel played the National Anthem on the same trumpet he's had since he was in the Vietnam War.

"Providing a home is the most basic

of needs. They (volunteers) may have come together for this cause," said Tom Benoit, vice president and chief financial officer of Homes for our Troops.

Honoring fallen Soldiers seemed to be the over-arching theme of the event. The Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial was one of two display areas dedicated to those men and women who made the ultimate sacri-



**1st Brigade Soldiers (right of photo, from left) Col. Dale Egger, Col. Leroy A. Ontiveros, and Capt. Demetriad Mack attend the presentation of a home to a wounded Marine through the Houston-based Helpingahero.org organization in Texas.**

fice. The wall held photos of American Heroes from Texas who have fallen in the war since 2003.

"You can't have Homes for our Troops without honoring the fallen," said Dave Lemak, commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 723. The Liberty Bell replica was another recognizable icon honoring the American heroes.

In one of the most heartfelt displays of American patriotism and sacrifice, the Never Forget Flag was retired

that night. Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells, former 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division, had the honor of retiring the flag. More heartfelt is the story he recited from heart to the Patriot Guard Riders and Mothers of Fallen Soldiers. It was the true story of the flag.

Carson George, father of Phillip C. George, who was killed in Afghanistan on August 19, 2005, was presented the flag at Camp War Horse, Iraq. Carson George was working as a contractor in Iraq when Phillip was killed and carried that flag with him while he accompanied his son's remains on the flight from Rhamstien Air Force Base, Germany to Dover Air Force Base.

Normally, each coffin is covered with an American flag. However, there was no flag available for Phillip. When the pilot was told there was no flag, Carson George said, "I have this one."

The pilot replied, "Let me see it."

Carson George unfolded the flag from his back pack and the pilot then covered

the casket.

The pilot then peeled the velcro American flag patch from his uniform then placed it at the head of Phillip's coffin.

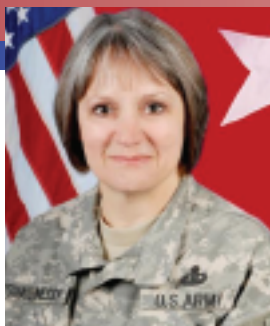
When the story was told, Wells reached across his chest with his left hand and ripped from his right sleeve the American flag and handed it to Carlson along with the retired flag that had flown in over 207 support missions.





# Warm Welcome from the 75th Battle Command Training Division

## Appreciated



**Brig. Gen. Karlyn Pelts  
O'Shaughnessy**

*By Brig. Gen. Karlyn Pelts O'Shaughnessy  
2nd Brigade Commander*

***Maj. Gen. Regua has been extremely supportive and even remembered my husband's birthday after 32 years. What is even more interesting, is that they went through college and ROTC together.***

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to command in the 75th Division. My husband, John and I are looking forward to this new assignment.

The welcome I have received has been tremendous.

Maj. Gen. Regua has been extremely supportive and even remembered my husband's birthday after 32 years. What is even more interesting is that they went through college and ROTC together.

Brig. Gen. Tooliatos made sure I started receiving 75th information when my assignment was announced.

Brig. Gen. Puster has also been very supportive. The Soldiers in 2nd Brigade have been extraordinary and have quickly made me feel like part of the unit.

I look forward to returning to the Battle Command Training environment.

During my four years in Korea, I had the opportunity to work with two different operational groups from the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., supporting exercises at the division, corps, and Army Service Component Command levels.

I was always very impressed with the Soldiers and civilians who were sent to support us and learned a great deal from them. These experiences should give me a excellent frame of reference and be very helpful in this assignment.

My background is a little unusual. I am the wife and daughter of retired Army officers and have lived all over the world.

I claim North Carolina and Louisiana as home; North Carolina because that is where I currently live and where my husband spent most of his Army career. I also claim Louisiana because that is where I lived when my father was deployed and where he later retired.

I am a Louisiana State University graduate and a huge fan of their sports teams.

I attended the University of Virginia while my husband was stationed at the Pentagon and later completed my Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Degree at the University of Kansas while my husband was attending Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. Additionally, I received a Master of Strategic Studies during the year I spent at the Army War College.

My military career has paralleled my husband's. In fact, I met him in the 82nd Airborne Division. Since he spent most of his career in Airborne and Special Operations units, I did the same, with assignments at Fort Bragg and MacDill Air Force Base.

During his assignment to Korea, I was selected as the Eighth United States Army G5, becoming the Deputy Chief of Staff after his retirement.

I left Eighth Army to take a brigade command in the 108th Division (IT), then became the Chief of Staff, and finally, the Assistant Division Commander-Operations.

When the 108th transformed to a Training Command, I became the Deputy Commanding General. In short, I have experienced the Army from a variety of perspectives-wife, mom, and Soldier.

In civilian life, I am a Senior Fiscal Analyst for the North Carolina General Assembly, where I support the House/Senate in developing fiscal policy and legislation.

My husband, John, is a Lt. Col (R) and is a graduate of Santa Clara University where he holds a Bachelor of Arts and is a MBA graduate.



# LIGHTNING STRIKES **TWICE**

By Brig. Gen. Christopher Leins  
Former 2nd Brigade Commander

**A**s the 2nd Brigade welcomes its new commander, it can't help but get a sense of déjà vu.

It wasn't long ago that the brigade conducted a ceremony welcoming me to the unit and is now hosting another change-of-command welcoming Brig. Gen. O'Shaughnessy.

It has been my distinct honor to serve as the bridge between these two outstanding leaders and my time as the 2nd Brigade commander has been one of the most satisfying experiences in my career in the Army.

Over the months that I commanded the brigade, the Soldiers under my command accomplished some wonderful things and I was proud to be associated with them.

In keeping with this year's theme of the "Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)", the brigade hosted the division's "Best Warrior" competition in March 2009. The competition was planned and overseen by the senior NCOs within the brigade and was supported by senior NCOs from across the division.

My thanks to all the NCOs who planned, supported, and participated in this event, and my congratulations go out to Sgt. Joshua Skelton of 4th Brigade who placed first in the NCO category, and Spc. Marcus Sierra of 3rd Brigade who placed first in the Soldier category.

During my time as commander, the brigade was also tasked to supply volunteers to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq (MNSTC-I) mission.

I was very pleased and impressed to see the large number of Soldiers within the brigade who

raised their hands to support this mission.

As an active component Soldier serving in a reserve organization, I have always had the utmost respect for Soldiers of the Army Reserve, who not only focused on building their civilian careers, but also provide dedicated service to their country.

As is the case with the MNSTC-I mission, many of these Soldiers are asked to take time away from these occupations, and they do so without complaint or fanfare.

My hat is off to all of the division Soldiers who will deploy on this mission, and I wish them Godspeed and a safe return.

Looking back, I take pride in the strides the brigade has made in recruiting new Soldiers and retaining its current ones.

Because of the rank heavy nature of our brigades, we in the 75th all struggle with the yearly loss of good NCOs and officers to retirement.

Over the past six months the brigade has put in place many mechanisms to locate, recruit and integrate new Soldiers into its ranks.

Because of these measures, I firmly believe our organization is on the right path toward meeting the division commander's objective of increasing our strength to 120%.

While there is still much work to be done in this area, I believe that the officers and NCOs of this unit have taken this goal to heart, and that they are working every day to locate and recruit quality Soldiers to fill our ranks.

I thank all the Soldiers whom I have served with during my tenure for their hard work and professionalism.



**Brig. Gen. Christopher Leins**

***As an active component Soldier serving in a reserve organization, I have always had the utmost respect for Soldiers of the Army Reserve.***

# Staff Ride Brings Historical Insight to 2nd Brigade Soldiers

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Eugene Cornell  
2nd Brigade, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Proving that history is relevant to the study of modern war, the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Battle Command Training Group explored the battles of Trenton and Princeton.

The group conducted a staff ride in April 2008 as part of its Observer Controller/ Trainer (OC/T) program.

"This was also largely about team building and developing a sense of unit cohesion," said Col. Miyako Schanely, the group's commander.

The Trenton and Princeton battlefields are located less than 45 minutes away from the unit's home station at Fort Dix, N.J.

Staff rides allow Soldiers to examine current doctrine and the contemporary operating environment in light of historical events.

Schanely said, "When we talk about decision making or conducting After Action Reviews (AAR) with deploying units, we're sometimes too close to the problem."

Schanley explained leaders see problems for how they may apply to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The need is to help OC/Ts see the bigger picture. How commanders and their staffs make decisions and how the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) or the Rapid Decision Making and Synchronization Process (RDSP) can assist them. It's not about producing orders; it's about framing and solving the right tactical problem," said Schanely. He said during the staff ride, the members of the group were first



Near the banks of the Delaware River, members of 2nd Group, 2nd Brigade conduct a Battle of Trenton After Action Review. Standing are, (Left) Sgt. 1st Class John Cosgrove, Lt. Col. Dean Disibio, Col. John Punkett, 1st Lt. Brad Rossi, Col. Tom Williams and Sgt. Diane Diaz.

given George Washington's operations order and after hearing what happened, they worked on how they might deliver an AAR to Washington and his commanders.

They practiced the art of asking open ended questions designed to lead the audience through the process of guided discovery. They also worked through some MDMP and RDSP as they analyzed the actions of various battlefield commanders.

"As impartial observers, we can often clearly see cause and effect relationships between unit actions and events on the battlefield. It's our job to get the unit to come to similar conclusions so they can accept the next and most difficult step: how to improve," said Schanely.

Teaching OC/Ts how to facilitate

that discussion and avoid pronouncing the answer is an art that requires certain skills.

"Experience and expertise in doctrine is only half the fight. OC/Ts need a solid grounding in areas such as facilitation and organizational behavior to do their jobs well," said Schanely.

Lastly, as part of the command sergeant major's non-commissioned officer (NCO) battle staff training and professional development program, the group NCOs used selected vignettes describing NCO actions at Trenton and Princeton to discuss Army values and the NCO Creed.

During this, Year of the NCO, it was a great opportunity to discuss how leaders build command climates. Command Sgt. Maj. Willoughby Mercer added that the Soldiers got past clichés. "We sparked some great conversation," he said.

The campaign between December 25, 1775 and January 3, 1776 consisted of three battles, two at Trenton and one at Princeton. During these 10 crucial days, Washington's Army defeated and outwitted the better equipped and more disciplined forces of the Gen. Charles Cornwallis.

This major victory saved the Continental Army and renewed the nation's will to continue its struggle for independence.





# Patriot Warrior 2009

Story and Photo by 1st Lt. Eugene Cornell  
2nd Brigade, Unit Public Affairs Representative

**B**uilding on the success of Patriot Warrior 2008 (PW 08), Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 75th Battle Command Training Division headquartered at Fort Dix, NJ, planned then executed Patriot Warrior in 2009.

PW 09, one of the United States Army Reserve Command's largest exercises, was held at Ft. McCoy, Wis. in Aug 2009.

Col. Jeff Williams, brigade operations and training officer said, "We have made key changes to the exercise in 2009 to enhance the training experiences for units participating in PW 09."

2008 focused on brigade and above units; this year's focus was on the battalion staff and company levels.

"The challenge was deciding how to train multiple echelons simultaneously while not losing the fidelity required of Patriot Warrior," Williams said.

The solution to the problem came from the brigade's Plans and Exercises Cell (PLEX) under the leadership of Lt. Col. Michael Rozier.

"Taking advantage of our experience with live, virtual, and constructive simulations, we have been able to create an exercise environment that employs all three types of simulations," said Rozier. "We trained everything from convoy operations at

the section level to battle-tracking and future plans at the battalion staff level."

According to Williams, this is only the second time this concept was attempted within the Army Reserve.



**Soldiers learn how to use the Command Post of the Future, better known as CPOF, during a Battle Command Seminar.**

Throughout the course of the exercise all units conducted reception, staging, onward movement and integration prior to beginning their lane training.

As the battalion staffs receive training in a Universal Battle Command System enabled environment, the companies and below conducted live training on multiple situational training exercise-type lanes. The culmination took place during the final three days of the integrated field training exercise portion.

"Integrated field training exercises aren't a new concept in the Army,

combat arms units train this way as a matter of course; however, trying to bring this all together for combat support and combat service support units that don't habitually work together has presented some unique challenges," said Williams.

Taking part in PW 09 were engineers, military police, and medical service and logistics units from all over the United States and Puerto Rico. The units trained on a variety of tasks specific to their core mission essential task list.

PW 09 is not the typical annual training event for Reserve Soldiers. It's a war exercise with performance-oriented training. Trained Observer Controller/Trainers provide continuous feedback to improve the units'

ability to execute their wartime missions.

"We spent almost a year planning and preparing for the exercise. Lessons learned from last year (2008) as well as feedback from deployed units brought us to planning a successful event," said Williams.

Exercises like Patriot Warrior help the Army Reserve units transition to a ready and trained organization ready for deployment.



# 3rd Brigade Soldiers Setting the Standards for



By Brig. Gen. John C. Hanley  
3rd Brigade Commander

## Success

Brig. Gen. John C. Hanley

I am honored to return to the 3rd Brigade and back into the excitement of executing battle command training missions.

A key source of our strength and success is found within our families. Many of our Soldiers and their families will be separated over the next year as 3rd Brigade contributes its support of the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq.

For these deploying Soldiers, the Brigade is here for you, and your families.

I want to welcome **1st Group Commander, Col. Larry Thoms** who took command in September 2009 after completing his previous assignment as G7 for the 311th Signal Command. I look forward to working with this dynamic leader.

Speaking of outstanding Soldiers, **Spc. Marcos Sierra and Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Griffin** competed in the Best Warrior Competition in 2009. Sierra advanced to the Division's Best Warrior Competition held at Ft McCoy, Wis. and subsequently competed for Soldier of the Year honors.

He was the only junior enlisted Soldier competing throughout the division. His actions and performance were thoroughly observed; he earned every bit of the division's respect and admiration.

Just as our Soldiers distinguish themselves; our civilian staff continues to lead the way. **Ms. Autumn**

**Ewing** continues to increase the Brigade's Department of the Army Civilian full time staff. Because of her leadership, we have increased from 44% to 91% of positions filled over the last fiscal year.

**1st Group** continues to grow their Exercise Branch as the only Brigade Split-Station Detachment co-located with a Joint Maneuver Training Center at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

**Camp Atterbury Soldiers** have played key roles in supporting the pre-deployment BCST training of TF Phoenix IX. **Col. Kucksdorf's 2nd Group Split-Station Branch**, located at Ft. Snelling, Minn. is nearing 100% strength.

They have taken the lead for post mobilization training for the 372nd Engineer Brigade. **Col. Rhatican** consolidated his **3rd Group Soldiers** into two branches, and created a third branch as a Split Station Detachment in Detroit, Mich., led by **Col. Harold Berloth**.

Together, with fulltime support, the branch is at full strength and has successfully taken the lead in the planning and execution for the training of KFOR12 units.

The Implementation of our Distributed Network (BCNET) has proved a success for a number of exercises. **Our Brigade S6, Battle Command Training Groups, contractors, and installation commands** all deserve our praise for this

accomplishment. This model of enhanced operational control, reduced costs and improved overall quality of exercises has been phenomenal.

In conjunction with the Distributed Network, **3rd Brigade** and **2nd Brigade** participated in their first collaborative VTC After Action Review. Held at Arlington Heights, Ill., the AAR highlighted those systemic measures that produced the expected results and to refine those operations that needed sustainment or improvement.

3rd Brigade was tasked with supporting the **Chief of the Army Reserve's** visit to Chicago to promote the US Army Reserve partnership with the State of Illinois. **Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz**, Chief, Army Reserve, visited Chicago for an Employer Partnership Signing Ceremony between the US Army Reserve, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and the Illinois Helmets to Hardhats Labor Affiliates.

On Sept. 16, 2009, over 80 Brigade Soldiers heard Medal of Honor recipient **Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Kenneth Stumpf** share his Vietnam War experiences at Fort Sheridan. Also in attendance was **World War II veteran, Richard Van Arsdale**, who served with the 75th Infantry Division and currently lives in Highland Park, Ill.

